



# WEST SPRINGFIELD

## Hampden County



[NARRATIVE](#)  
[GEOGRAPHY](#)  
[GOVERNMENT](#)  
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)  
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)  
[TRANSPORTATION](#)  
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)  
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

With both suburban and rural qualities, West Springfield is Western Massachusetts' second most populous town, its population up 2% to 27,537 in 1990.

While its early settlement dates back to 1665, the town was formally established in 1774. West Springfield borders the Connecticut River on its eastern boundary. The area was once rich farmland replenished by the annual flooding of the river. Elements of the town's continuing old New England flavor include the Town Common, towering shade trees and its historic structures like the Josiah Day House, circa 1754, which is believed to be the oldest structure of its kind in Massachusetts. The town's biggest tourist attraction is the Eastern States Exposition, which hosts the state fair for the entire New England region in September. It is one of the nation's largest agricultural fairs. Storowton Village, a recreated village of colonial America, is a permanent attraction on the "Big

E" fairgrounds. The first Morgan Horse was bred in West Springfield and the Eastern States Horse Show is among the oldest in the country. West Springfield is also an emerging commercial center for the region. Riverdale Street (Route 5) best exemplifies the Town's success in supporting commercial development. Major retailers and warehouse outlets have located there along with the region's largest complex of movie theatres. In West Springfield's industrial areas, small and medium-sized manufacturers dominate. K & M Electronics is one of the region's largest electronic component manufacturers.

Because of the diversity of choices offered in terms of housing, recreation, employment and shopping, most Town residents would attest that West Springfield is a wonderful place to work, play, and raise a family.

(Narrative supplied by community)&127;



# GEOGRAPHY

---

## Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Holyoke on the north, Agawam on the south, Westfield on the west, and Chicopee and Springfield on the east. West Springfield is 91 miles southwest of Boston; 26 miles north of Hartford, Connecticut; 90 miles from Albany, New York; and 135 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 17.54 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 16.75 sq. miles

**Population:** 27,537

**Density:** 1,644 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Springfield Station)

Normal temperature in January.....26.8°F  
Normal temperature in July.....74.1°F  
Normal annual precipitation.....43.9"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

West Springfield, Mount Tom, Springfield South

## Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



# GOVERNMENT

---

## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 263-3000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Representative Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1774

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
--	--------	---

Total Registered 14,188

Democrats 5,293 37.3 % Republicans 2,234 15.7 % Other parties 8 0.1 % Unenrolled Voters 6,653 46.9 %

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: West Springfield town, Hampden County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	27,899	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	27,899	100.0
Male.....	13,604	48.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	1,606	5.8
Female.....	14,295	51.2	Mexican.....	70	0.3
Under 5 years.....	1,631	5.8	Puerto Rican.....	1,155	4.1
5 to 9 years.....	1,807	6.5	Cuban.....	15	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,949	7.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	365	1.3
15 to 19 years.....	1,764	6.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	26,294	94.2
20 to 24 years.....	1,574	5.6	White alone.....	24,673	88.4
25 to 34 years.....	3,803	13.6	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	4,445	15.9	Total population.....	27,899	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,930	14.1	In households.....	27,522	98.6
55 to 59 years.....	1,358	4.9	Householder.....	11,823	42.4
60 to 64 years.....	1,191	4.3	Spouse.....	5,283	18.9
65 to 74 years.....	2,240	8.0	Child.....	7,987	28.6
75 to 84 years.....	1,674	6.0	Own child under 18 years.....	5,977	21.4
85 years and over.....	533	1.9	Other relatives.....	1,119	4.0
Median age (years).....	38.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	347	1.2
18 years and over.....	21,360	76.6	Nonrelatives.....	1,310	4.7
Male.....	10,191	36.5	Unmarried partner.....	658	2.4
Female.....	11,169	40.0	In group quarters.....	377	1.4
21 years and over.....	20,452	73.3	Institutionalized population.....	337	1.2
62 years and over.....	5,139	18.4	Noninstitutionalized population.....	40	0.1
65 years and over.....	4,447	15.9	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	1,826	6.5	Total households.....	11,823	100.0
Female.....	2,621	9.4	Family households (families).....	7,113	60.2
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	3,189	27.0
One race.....	27,313	97.9	Married-couple family.....	5,283	44.7
White.....	25,300	90.7	With own children under 18 years.....	2,212	18.7
Black or African American.....	572	2.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,351	11.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	61	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	766	6.5
Asian.....	551	2.0	Nonfamily households.....	4,710	39.8
Asian Indian.....	74	0.3	Householder living alone.....	4,025	34.0
Chinese.....	113	0.4	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,327	11.2
Filipino.....	38	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	3,451	29.2
Japanese.....	12	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	3,146	26.6
Korean.....	37	0.1	Average household size.....	2.33	(X)
Vietnamese.....	202	0.7	Average family size.....	3.02	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	75	0.3	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	-	Total housing units.....	12,259	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	-	Occupied housing units.....	11,823	96.4
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	436	3.6
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	7	-	occasional use.....	63	0.5
Some other race.....	819	2.9	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	586	2.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.7	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	11,823	100.0
White.....	25,832	92.6	Owner-occupied housing units.....	6,890	58.2
Black or African American.....	706	2.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	4,943	41.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	165	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.56	(X)
Asian.....	640	2.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.00	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	25	0.1			
Some other race.....	1,132	4.1			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

---

**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units:** The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

## **Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State	359
Conventional Federal	0

## **Rental Assistance** (DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP)	17
Federal (Section 8)	224



# TRANSPORTATION

---

## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

West Springfield is located in the Pioneer Valley, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic location in the Connecticut River Valley and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 20 and the Massachusetts Turnpike running E-W across the state, and U.S. Route 5 and I-91 traversing it N-S.

### Rail

Passenger rail service to Hartford, Boston, Albany, Montreal, and all other points on the Amtrak network is available through nearby Springfield. Conrail provides freight service to West Springfield. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

### Bus

West Springfield is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA), which provides fixed route service to Springfield and Westfield, and also paratransit services to the elderly and disabled. Peter Pan Bus Lines offers frequent commuter service to Boston from neighboring Springfield.

### Other

Barnes Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 5,000' x 100' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-Precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

---

## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Ramapogue Historical Society  
70 Park Street  
(413) 734-8322  
Storowton Village Museum  
1305 Memorial Avenue  
Eastern States Exposition Grounds  
(413) 787-0136

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

---

## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Riverdale Gardens Nurs Home  
West Springfield Nursing Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

Re-hab Associates, Inc.

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

---

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

---

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.